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5 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Assistant Director for Intelligence  
Production, DIA

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SUBJECT : Friendly Order of Battle (OB) - Laos

1. The recent receipt (via your working level officers) of USARPAC's latest request for detailed information on Special Guerrilla Units (SGU) in Laos led us to query the field on this sensitive subject. Ambassador Godley has replied that he feels strongly that a precedent of routine reporting on SGU disposition, strength, training, organization, and tactics, as requested by USARPAC, should not be set. He is particularly reluctant to have additional reporting requirements levied on any element of the Country Team, which he feels is already spending too much time reporting to higher headquarters.

2. The Ambassador stressed that all those who have a need-to-know are provided this sensitive and closely held information, but that it is not and should not be distributed in normal service OB reporting channels. He is certain that Admiral McCain and other top officials, both at CINCPAC and Washington, are being kept fully abreast of Lao developments.

3. We share the feeling that the paramilitary program in Laos is a matter of considerable sensitivity and that unnecessarily wide distribution of details on it, with the attendant possibility of exposure, should be avoided. We therefore do not believe such information should be routinely incorporated by USARPAC in its OB handbook which, though classified, is widely circulated.

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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